

28th February, 1943.

B.S. 1943/2B)
2C)

NEW SOUTH WALES.



BUSINESS STATISTICS - FEBRUARY, 1943.

C O N T E N T S.

PART I. PRIMARY & EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

Rural Industries - General: Seasonal Conditions.

Meat: Retail prices fixed. Allies purchases from South America.

Dairy Industries: Butter produced, N.S.W. factories, December, 1942. Quotas of butter and cheese for local consumption, March, 1943. Pay to suppliers of cream, North Coast, January 1943.

Coal: Production, Australia, 1942.

PART II. FINANCE & TRADE:

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Bond Yields: January, 1943.

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PART III. INDUSTRIES, ETC.

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Buildings Commenced: Metrop. Water Board Area, January, 1943.

PART I - PRIMARY & EXPORT INDUSTRIES.GENERAL.

Seasonal Conditions: Rainfall in January, 1943 was above normal in sheep districts (+41%) and wheat areas (+38%) but 25% below normal in the dairying (coastal) belt. Light to moderate rains were widespread in February. High temperatures have been experienced.

Pastoral conditions are good except in isolated western areas. Rain would be welcome in the Riverina and southern areas generally.

MEAT.

The maximum prices which retailers may charge for meat are: (a) Those obtaining on February 26th, 1943 (and a schedule of such prices must be exhibited by the retailers); or (b) if the cost of meat to the retailer declines, the cost plus the margins of gross profit obtaining on February 26th.

Seven additional meat dehydration plants are expected to commence operations in Australia during the next few months.

The Combined Food Board (Britain and U.S.A.) has nominated the British Ministry of Food to be sole purchaser of meat and meat products from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay on behalf of the Empire and U.S.A. More efficient use of facilities, including shipping, is anticipated.

Maximum wholesale prices for fish at the Sydney markets have been declared.

DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

Butter produced in N.S.W. factories in December, 1942, 12.0m. lb., was higher than in December of the two previous years. Production in the second half of 1942 was 47.3m. lb. compared with 39.1m. lb. in 1941 and 44.7m. lb. in 1940. Output for the calendar year 1942 was below 1940 and 1941 due to smaller production in the early part of the year.

BUTTER PRODUCED - N.S.W. FACTORIES.

'000,000 lb.

Year	Whole Year	Six months July-Dec.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1939	120.5	57.7	6.4	7.3	10.2	13.5	13.8
1940	98.4	44.1	5.0	6.5	8.0	8.2	11.4
1941	98.7	39.1	4.6	5.9	7.5	7.9	8.6
1942	93.3	47.3	5.3	6.0	7.5	11.3	12.0

The Minister for Commerce announced on March 3rd that he had recommended to Cabinet that £25,000 be provided for erection of additional butter storage in Sydney.

Quotas of butter and cheese available for local consumption in March, 1943 have been fixed at 58% and 61% respectively compared with 47% and 42% in 1942.

QUOTAS OF BUTTER & CHEESE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.N.S.W., VIC., Q'LD. & TAS.

Month	B U T T E R.				C H E E S E. ϕ			
	1934/35x	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43	1934/35	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43
July	50	73	64	84	75	51	61	68
Sept.	50	54	51	53	75	39	36	43
Dec.	24	39	38	38	38	31	29	31
Jan.	24	36	37	44	40	36	37	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
Feb.	29	37	46	47	50	46	45	52
Mar.	32	44	47	58	58	50	42	61
April	43	53	56	-	61	58	44	-
June	68	71	85	-	78	70	63	-

x Year of record production in Australia.

 ϕ Applies to S. Aust. also.

Pay in January, 1943 to suppliers of cream to certain North Coast factories was at the rate of 1s. 2d. per lb. of commercial butter made. This included the preliminary payment of 5/7d. per lb. on account of the subsidy to the industry. The actual amount of the subsidy per lb. of butter will not be known until production in 1942/43 is determined and it is probable that there will be an equalisation payment.

N.S.W. BUTTER - PAY TO CREAM SUPPLIERS.BY CERTAIN NORTH COAST FACTORIES.Pence per lb. of commercial butter made.

Year	Deferred Pay \star		Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
	July-Dec.	Jan.-June					
1934/35	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	9	8	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
1938/39	5/16	1.06	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$
1939/40	$\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1940/41	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	13	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1941/42	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	12 $\frac{7}{8}$	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$
1942/43	17/16 (a)	-	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ (a)	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ (a)	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ (a)	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ (a)	14 (a)

 \star Add to monthly pay.

(a) Exclusive of subsidy except in January, 1943 when a preliminary subsidy payment of 5/7d. per lb. was included.

COAL.

According to the Minister for Supply and Shipping Australian output of black coal in 1942 was 14.97m. tons compared with 1941, 14.2m., 1940, 11.72 m. and 1939, 13.54m. tons. Production per man in the industry was 686.1 tons in 1942 compared with 626.1 tons in 1939, said the Minister.

PART II - FINANCE & TRADE.GENERAL.

The ninth War loan, to be called the "Third Liberty Loan" will be for £100m. (all new money) and will open for public subscription on March 16th. The interest rates will be the same as for the last five loans, viz: $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ p.a. on 5-year bonds and $3\frac{1}{4}\%$ for 16 years. The new loan will be the largest loan ever raised in Australia (excluding conversion loans).

The Melbourne Board of Works did not seek cash subscribers to its conversion loan ($\pounds 3/8/9\%$ for 13 years). Conversion is seven-eighths complete and applications for redemption were negligible.

SHARE PRICES.

In January, 1943 the index of share prices (all groups, 75 companies) was 175 or the same as in September, 1941 which is regarded as the "ceiling" month in the official determination of maximum price limits. The indexes for 34 "active" shares and for the manufacturing group were both above September, 1941.

The Sydney Stock Exchange Bureau's index of industrial share prices (1934=100) was 129.26 on February 1st, 1943 and 131.28 on March 4th.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of ordinary shares - excl. banks. Par Value = 100

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician).

Average for Month	Manufacturing & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral & Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1937 - Mar.	214	204	181	169	281	190(a)	201
1939 - Aug.	213	168	156	118	264	174	182
1941 - Sept.	228	177	142	128	253	175	191
- Dec.	204	160	138	118	241	161	171
1942 - Jan.	199	154	136	116	236	157	166
- Oct.	216	159	126	128	242	165	181
- Nov.	221	163	131	128	243	168	184
- Dec.	227	171	133	132	249	173	189
1943 - Jan.	229	174	135	132	250	175	193

(a) Highest point recorded.

BOND YIELDS.

The yield on Commonwealth Government securities in Australia during December, 1942 and January, 1943 compared with a year earlier, was slightly higher in respect of short-dated securities and approximately the same for long-dated.

YIELD ON COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Bonds taxed at full C/wealth rates and maturing in:

Month	2 Years	12 Years.	Month.	2 Years	12 Years.
	%	%		%	%
1941 - Aug.	2.30	3.23	1942 - Aug.	2.47	3.25
- Nov.	2.40	3.21	- Nov.	2.50	3.23
- Dec.	2.43	3.25	- Dec.	2.47	3.23
1942 - Jan.	2.41	3.25	1943 - Jan.	2.47	3.25

BANK CLEARINGS.

Bank clearings (Sydney) which reached an exceptionally high figure in December, 1942 were seasonally lower in January, 1943 but still much above earlier years. The index of clearings for the three months ended January (1926-30 = 100) was 136 in 1943 compared with 123 in 1941 and 98 in 1939.

INTER-BANK CLEARINGS - SYDNEY.

Excl. Treasury Bill Transactions.

Year	A M O U N T.		INDEX NUMBERS (Base : Av. correspond. period 1926-30 = 100).	
	January	Seven months ended Jan.	Three months ended Jan.	Calendar Year.
	£m.	£m.	Index.	Index.
1939	66.5	537.8	98	100
1940	82.7	559.5	110	113
1941	90.3	636.7	117	120
1942	92.0	679.1	123	131
1943	106.7	752.6	136	-

(The index is adjusted to eliminate the effects of Special Government transactions as well as Treasury Bills).

SAVINGS.

Savings bank deposits in N.S.W. increased by £3,476,000 in January, 1943 to £109,220,000. The rise in deposits in N.S.W. since June 30th, 1942 (seven months) was £14,682,000 or more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much as in the corresponding period of 1941/42.

Net sales of War Savings Certificates in N.S.W. were £210,000 in January, 1943. This result was over 30% below the monthly average for the preceding six months.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Sales at wholesale in N.S.W. in December Quarter, 1942 were valued at £62.6m. or £3m. above September Qr. and £3.5m. above Dec. Qr., 1941.

Total sales by registered traders in 1942 were valued at £238.7m. or £9.7m. more than in 1941. Sales of taxable goods decreased by £17m. while sales of exempt goods rose by £27m. showing the effect of Government purchases.

WHOLESALE TRADE, N.S.W.

Sales by traders registered under Sales Tax Acts.

Total, taxable and exempt goods.

	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>
Sales - £ million.					
Calendar Year	193.0	200.3	202.8	229.0	238.7
Quarter - March Qr.	45.7	45.6	47.9	50.7	57.6
- June Qr.	48.7	48.1	49.8	59.6	58.9
- Sept. Qr.	49.0	51.5	51.4	59.6	59.6
- Dec. Qr.	49.6	55.1	53.7	59.1	62.6
Month - Oct.	15.7	19.2	18.5	18.2	22.06
Nov.	16.9	17.6	18.2	20.6	19.54
Dec.	17.0	18.3	17.0	20.3	20.98

RETAIL TRADE.

Returns from 24 Sydney stores for December, 1942 reflected a decline of 23.1% in sales, as compared with December, 1941. The normal seasonal increase in employment did not take place (see later: "Employment") and the comparison with the previous year showed a greater relative decline than was recorded in November and October, 1942.

Smaller sales (by value) were recorded in December, 1942 than a year earlier for all types of goods except books, stationery and fancy goods.

During 1942, in the latter half of which clothes were rationed, aggregate value of sales of reporting stores was 5.3% below 1941 and in December Quarter, 1942 it was 19.3% below 1941.

RETAIL TRADE - SYDNEY.

(Experience of 24 Sydney stores).

Percentage increase from corresponding period of the previous year.

Period	Net Value of Sales.	Value of Stock	Wages & Salaries Paid.	Number of Employees.
1939	+ 2.4	+ 2.0	+ 2.6	+ 0.9
1940	+ 6.3	+ 17.0	+ 4.0	+ 1.9
1941	+ 14.6	+ 8.0	+ 9.0	+ 4.0
1942	(-) 5.3	+ 9.2	(-) 5.1	(-) 8.4
Dec. Qr.-1941	+ 9.4	+ 17.0	+ 10.8	+ 5.3
" " 1942	(-) 19.3	+ 0.8	(-) 15.5	(-) 19.8
1942 - Mar.	+ 25.9	+ 11.5	+ 4.6	+ 0.6
June	(-) 19.1	+ 10.5	(-) 1.7	(-) 10.9
Oct.	(-) 17.3	+ 2.1	(-) 13.0	(-) 15.1
Nov.	(-) 16.3	(-) 1.2	(-) 14.4	(-) 18.9
Dec.	(-) 23.1	+ 1.5	(-) 18.7	(-) 24.5

(-) Denotes decrease.

PART III - INDUSTRIES. ETC.FACTORY STATISTICS 1941/42 (Preliminary).

The total value of factory output in N.S.W. 1941/42 was £339.5 m. or £53.6 m. above the previous year. The value of production (value added to raw materials) was £138.8 m., far above any level previously attained.

The increase in value of production over the previous year was £23,746,000. Of this no less than £15,150,000 (64%) was in the metal working, vehicle etc. industries. The production of this group expanded by 33.7% and constituted 43.3% of the total production in 1941/42 compared with 39% in the previous year.

Additions and replacements of plant and machinery were £8.35 m. or slightly less than in 1940/41. The cost of additional land and buildings used by factories was £3.48 m. compared with £3.08 m. in 1940/41. Additions to plant and machinery were less than in the previous year in all classes except metal working, etc. and heat, light etc. works (mainly electricity). The metal working, machinery, vehicle etc. industries accounted for 58.8% of additions and replacements to plant and machinery in 1941/42 compared with 50.8% in 1940/41.

The "book value" of land, buildings, fixtures, plant and machinery was returned as £135.67 m. compared with £120.05 m. in 1938/39.

The factory wages bill increased by 31% over 1940/41. It was £75.76 m. compared with £44.61 m. in 1938/39.

Employment in factories is shown in detail under "Employment."

FACTORIES AND WORKS - N.S.W.

Year ended June	No. of Factories	Av. No. Employed during year.			Salaries & Wages Paid	Value of Output	Value of Production.	Book Value of -	
		M.	F.	T.				Plant & Machinery	Land & Buildings
		'000	'000	'000	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.
1929	8,465	139.1	46.0	185.1	38.54	185.3	73.62	51.37	51.38
1939	9,464	169.5	62.3	231.8	44.61	218.4	90.27	62.69	57.35
1940	9,458	174.2	65.2	239.4	47.69	239.2	96.61	64.80	58.94
1941	9,919	196.0	71.9	267.9	57.76	285.9	115.04	68.53	61.89
1942	10,166	220.0	82.1	302.1	75.76	339.5	138.79	70.61	65.06

Salaries and wages paid were equal to 22.3% of the value of factory output in 1941/42 compared with 20.2% in the preceding year and 20.8% in 1928/29.

EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated total number of non-rural wage and salary earners (excl. household domestics) employed in N.S.W. at the end of December, 1942 was 765,200. There was a net decline from November to December viz.: an increase of 1,900 females and a decrease of 2,000 males.

Males employed by Government authorities declined 2,200 in December due to reduced employment on defence works in this State. Government establishments, especially factories, continue to absorb many females. Females employed by private employers increased seasonally from November to December.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ESTIMATED NON-RURAL WAGE & SALARY EARNERS EMPLOYED (EXCL. HOUSEHOLD DOMESTIC)
(Includes Civil Construction Corps in N.S.W.)

End of Month.	MALES.			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Government (C'wealth, State & Local.	Private Employers	Total.	Government (C'wealth, State & Local.	Private Employers	Total	Government (C'wealth, State & Local.	Private Employers	Total.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1939-July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.3
1941-July	141.5	419.5	561.0	21.7	186.8	208.5	163.2	606.3	769.5
Oct.	143.7	425.4	569.1	22.7	192.1	214.8	166.4	617.5	783.9
Nov.	144.3	425.1	569.4	23.0	194.8	217.8	167.3	619.9	787.2
Dec.	146.4	420.3	566.7	23.4	195.7	219.1	169.8	616.0	785.8
1942-Mar.	148.9	405.3	554.2	25.0	197.1	222.1	173.9	602.4	776.3
July	154.8	384.3	539.1	28.1	197.0	225.1	182.9	581.3	764.2
Oct.	153.6	379.8	533.4	31.7	199.3	231.0	185.3	579.1	764.4
Nov.	152.9	379.2	532.1	32.7	200.5	233.2	185.6	579.7	765.3
Dec.	150.7	379.4	530.1	33.9	201.2	235.1	184.6	580.6	765.2

(Excludes persons on military leave).

The trend of employment in N.S.W. in certain broad industrial classifications is shown in the table below. The numbers shown do not represent the total wage and salary earners employed in the industries. Manufacturing employment is shown later.

Employment in gold, silver-lead and coal mining declined slightly in December, 1942. There were also fewer employed in building and construction, road transport and in primary produce agencies. The movement in the latter was seasonal and seasonal influences also caused a slight decline in wholesale trade. In retail trade there was increased employment for the December trade but total employment in the trade was 9,600 less than in December, 1941.

NEW SOUTH WALES.
EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED BY EMPLOYERS
ON PAY ROLL TAX RETURNS. ϕ
(Thousands)

Last Pay Day in Month	Employees recorded by employers whose principal activity is:													
	Mining & Quarrying		Building & Construction (a)		Transport (Excl. shipping)		Retail Trade		Wholesale Trade		Other Commerce & Finance (b)		Personal Service (excl. household domestics). (c)	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1941-July	21.7	0.1	20.5	0.5	60.7	2.7	31.9	31.8	29.1	10.0	20.9	9.8	16.3	20.3
Oct.	21.5	0.2	19.5	0.5	62.0	2.9	31.5	32.3	29.6	10.9	22.4	10.2	16.8	21.4
Nov.	21.7	0.2	19.3	0.5	61.9	3.0	32.1	33.8	29.3	11.1	21.6	10.5	16.7	21.5
Dec.	21.7	0.2	18.3	0.5	62.3	3.0	31.9	35.2	28.5	10.9	21.2	10.5	16.8	21.8
1942-Mar.	21.2	0.2	19.9	0.5	62.3	3.3	28.5	33.1	27.6	10.0	18.0	11.3	15.1	21.5
June	21.1	0.2	18.2	0.5	62.4	3.4	25.6	32.6	25.4	11.2	17.0	11.6	13.5	21.4
Sept.	21.1	0.2	15.5	0.5	62.8	3.6	24.0	31.6	25.6	11.6	16.7	11.7	12.7	21.5
Oct.	21.2	0.2	15.5	0.5	62.8	3.8	23.6	31.8	24.9	11.5	16.9	11.7	12.7	21.7
Nov.	21.1	0.2	15.6	0.5	62.5	4.0	23.5	32.2	24.6	11.5	17.0	11.8	12.7	21.6
Dec.	20.7	0.2	15.4	0.5	62.4	4.3	24.6	32.9	24.6	11.4	16.3	11.7	12.7	21.6

ϕ Pay-Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (except C'wealth Govt., Charities, etc.) whose pay-roll exceeds £20 per wk.

(a) Excl. large numbers employed on Construction by Govt. authorities.

(b) Incl. wool and produce brokers, banks, insurance and commerce n.e.i. - 1942 figures revised.

(c) Incl. hotels, restaurants, entertainment, professional and personal service.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT in N.S.W. in December, 1942 was provisionally estimated at 309,500 (including 8,129 working proprietors). The increase during the month was 700, wholly in females. Increases in both male and female employment occurred in the metal working, vehicles etc. group, food and drink and miscellaneous factories. In other groups (bricks and glass, textiles, clothing, woodworking, paper and printing) there were decreases. Recent trends in these factory groups are shown below in table III.

During 1941/42 factory employment in N.S.W. increased by 20,000 (approx. 11,000 males and 9,000 females). During the first half of 1942/43 it is estimated that there was a further expansion of 7,400.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES AND WORKS - TABLE I.
(Thousands)
(Including Working Proprietors).

Month.	1938/39			1940/41			1941/42 (a)			1942/43 (a)			Index No's (1938/39 = 100)	
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	1941/42 (a)	1942/43 (a)
July	165.2	60.4	225.6	180.0	66.0	246.0	209.7	76.6	286.3	218.9	84.4	303.3	125	133
Aug.	166.2	61.1	227.3	183.4	67.4	250.8	211.3	77.9	289.2	219.0	85.0	304.0	126	133
Sept.	166.3	61.8	228.1	185.6	69.1	254.7	213.2	75.6	288.8	219.4	86.0	305.4	126	133
Oct.	166.5	62.3	228.8	187.1	70.3	257.4	215.6	80.1	295.7	219.0	87.8	306.8	129	134
Nov.	166.6	62.4	229.0	191.3	71.4	262.7	218.0	81.3	299.3	219.9	88.9	308.8	131	135
Dec.	166.2	62.2	228.4	194.1	72.1	266.2	220.8	82.4	303.2	219.9	89.6	309.5	133	135
Jan.	164.1	57.5	221.6	193.4	69.4	262.8	217.9	79.9	297.8				130	
Feb.	165.6	60.8	226.4	197.1	72.3	269.4	218.4	81.5	299.9				131	
Mar.	167.0	62.0	229.0	202.3	73.0	276.2	219.8	82.3	302.1				132	
Apr.	165.9	61.5	227.4	200.6	73.1	273.7	219.4	82.4	301.8				132	
May	166.6	61.0	227.6	204.9	73.8	278.7	219.8	83.2	303.0				132	
June	166.9	60.4	227.3	207.6	74.2	281.8	219.1	83.0	302.1				132	
for whole year	167.2	61.6	228.8	194.2	71.6	265.8	216.9	80.4	297.3				130	

(a) Figures for 1941/42 are final. Those for 1942/43 are preliminary and since last issue have been provisionally adjusted to bring them into line with the results of the 1941/42 annual collection.

From June, 1941 to June, 1942 there were substantial decreases in males and females under 16 years and 16-21 years of age employed in factories in N.S.W.

The effect of the war on employment in various factory groups is illustrated in table II. There were more employees in June, 1942 than in June, 1939 in all the major groups of factories shown except in paper, printing etc. but almost the whole of the increase occurred in the metal industries and textiles. Skins and leather (not indicated separately) showed substantial growth.

In 1941/42 limitations on civilian consumption and a more intense mobilization of resources for war purposes resulted in reduced employment in all factory classes except metal working, textiles, chemicals, paints etc., woodworking (not furniture) and heat light and power works.

EMPLOYEES.....

EMPLOYEES IN FACTORIES - N.S.W. - TABLE II.

(Thousands)

Group.	15 June, 1939		15 June, 1940		15 June, 1941		15 June, 1942.		Increase in Total Employees.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	June 1939- June 1942	June 1941- June 1942.
Founding, engineering, vehicles, aircraft etc.	75.9	4.9	81.5	5.8	106.6	9.1	126.7	15.2	61.1	26.2
Textiles	5.6	9.2	6.9	11.0	7.8	12.5	7.1	13.9	6.2	0.7
Clothing	6.9	22.8	7.0	23.3	7.6	24.7	6.8	24.5	1.6	(-) 1.0
Food, Drink, & Tobacco	17.5	9.4	17.6	9.4	18.6	10.7	18.0	11.6	2.7	0.3
Woodworking & Furniture	13.4	1.6	12.7	1.5	14.7	1.8	13.4	1.8	0.2	(-) 1.3
Paper, Printing etc.	11.4	5.3	11.0	5.5	11.3	5.7	9.3	5.9	(-) 1.5	(-) 1.8
Other Factories	29.0	6.7	30.0	7.7	33.5	9.2	30.2	9.5	4.0	(-) 3.0
Total	159.7	59.9	166.7	64.2	200.1	73.7	211.5	82.4	74.3	20.1

(-) Denotes decrease.

A continuation of these trends in 1942/43 is shown in statistics derived from Pay Roll Tax returns and returns of employment in Government factories (Table III).

The total number of males employed in factories in N.S.W. has changed little since June, 1942. In food and drink factories males have been increasing substantially; in textiles there has been little variation for seven months but in all other classes, except metal working etc., male employment has declined.

The increase in factory employment from June to Dec. 1942 was due to absorption of females by the metal working and food, drink etc. groups. In other classes (except textiles) employment of females declined.

EMPLOYMENT (MONTHLY) IN CERTAIN FACTORY GROUPS, SO FAR AS RECORDED.DERIVED FROM 1. GOVT. FACTORY RETURNS & 2. PAY-ROLL TAXReturns (of employers whose principal activity is
manufacturing).

(Thousands)

Group.		June, 1942	July, 1942	Aug, 1942	Sept., 1942	Oct, 1942	Nov., 1942	Dec., 1942
Founding, engineering, vehicles, aircraft etc.	M.)	137.0	137.3	138.0	138.5	138.3	139.2	138.8
	F.)	16.6	17.3	18.9	20.1	21.3	22.5	23.1
Textiles.	M.)	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7
	F.)	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.5
Clothing.	M.)	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4
	F.)	23.5	23.3	22.9	22.6	22.4	22.1	21.9
Food, Drink & Tobacco.	M.)	24.8	24.7	24.8	25.1	25.2	25.7	26.2
	F.)	13.2	13.3	13.3	13.4	13.9	14.0	14.5
Woodworking & Furniture.	M.)	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.9	10.7	10.7	10.6
	F.)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Paper, Printing etc.	M.)	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.9
	F.)	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.1
Total* (incl. other groups.)	M.)	231.7	231.2	231.4	231.7	230.9	232.0	231.6
	F.)	83.2	85.0	85.5	86.6	88.7	89.7	90.4

* Note: The above figures represent only the trend of factory employment as they include a large number of employees not actually engaged in the factories.

Manufacturing industries being investigated by the Dept. of War Organisation of Industry with a view to reducing unessential production include domestic furniture, cycle parts, men's felt hats, bedding, crockery, glassware, confectionary clothing, inks, pastes and gums, radios, etc..

RAILWAYS (GOVT.)

Working expenses debited to Railway accounts in December, 1942 exceeded revenue by £243,000. Included in working expenses, however, was certain expenditure not entirely applicable to the month of December.

In December of 1941 and 1942 passenger journeys failed to show the normal seasonal expansion but on the contrary were lower than the previous month. The movement was due, in part at least, to reduced travelling by work people and others during the holiday period. Further restrictions on general passenger traffic also contributed to the decrease.

	Tonnage of Goods, etc. mill.	Gross Revenue. £m.	Working Surplus [*] £000.	Passenger Journeys. mill.
1941-Dec.	1.64	2.42	872	19.1
1942-Sept.	1.72	3.14	417	18.7
-Oct.	1.73	3.00	1,177	19.3
-Nov.	1.65	2.72	1,002	20.0
-Dec.	1.59	2.85	(-) 243	19.9
<u>Half-year, July-Dec.</u>				
1939	8.47	10.52	3,478	89.1
1940	9.57	11.98	4,481	94.5
1941	9.25	13.13	4,317	107.5
1942	10.04	17.28	4,682	116.2

* Exclusive of interest, sinking fund and exchange, which amounted to £6,570,000 in 1941/42. In certain months, e.g. December, 1942, some expenditure not entirely applicable to that particular month is brought into the accounts as working expenses.

(-) Denotes excess of working expenses over revenue.

GOVT. TRAMS & 'BUSES.

Passenger traffic in December, 1942 showed a seasonal increase over November and the working surplus was slightly higher. For the half-year July-Dec., the working surplus in 1942 was £101,000 (or 23%) less than in 1941, while passengers carried were 5 m. greater (up 2%).

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS & 'BUSES.

SYDNEY & NEWCASTLE.

Year	Month of DECEMBER.				Half-year ended DECEMBER			
	Earnings	Working Expenses [*]	Excess of Earnings Over Working Expenses [*]	Passenger Journeys [∅]	Earnings	Working Expenses [*]	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses [*]	Passenger Journeys [∅]
	£000	£000	£000	mill.	£000	£000	£000	mill.
1939	391	323	69	33.3	2,189	1,867	322	187
1940	413	308	104	35.6	2,310	1,877	433	199
1941	484	421	63	42.8	2,693	2,252	442	239
1942	479	404	75	42.9	2,762	2,421	341	244

* Exclusive of Sinking Fund, Interest, Exchange and Current Depreciation amounting to £605,000 in 1941/42.

∅ Exclusive of Sydney Harbour Section trips.

MOTOR REGISTRATIONS.

The number of motor vehicles currently on the registers in N.S.W. increased again in January, 1943. The increase from October 1942 to January, 1943 was 2,500 - cars increased by 2,100 and lorries and vans 700 while other vehicles on the register declined.

The fixed prices of charcoal have been increased in city and country areas to 6/6 and 6/-, respectively, per 56 lb. bag.

N.S.W. MOTOR VEHICLES ON REGISTER AND NEW REGISTRATIONS.

<u>Number registered -</u>		<u>Aug. 1939</u>	<u>Dec. 1941</u>	<u>Jan. 1942</u>	<u>Nov. 1942</u>	<u>Dec. 1942</u>	<u>Jan. 1943</u>
Cars	('000)	216.6	188.6	183.5	170.8	172.0	172.4
Lorries	('000)	77.6	75.5	74.7	70.9	71.3	71.4
Cycles	('000)	24.0	18.9	17.8	14.8	14.8	14.8
Total	('000)	329.2	295.2	287.7	267.6	269.2	269.6
(incl. other)							

New Vehicles Registered -Av. Weekly Number:

Cars and Cabs.	322	37	18	18	12	7
Lorries and Vans.	146	66	31	5	2	6

(Excludes military vehicles)

BUILDINGS COMMENCED.

The estimated cost of buildings commenced in the Metropolitan Water Board Area in January, 1943 was only £182,000 of which £151,000 was accounted for by non-residential types of building.

The value of building contracts let during January, by Government authorities in N.S.W. was £707,000 made up of £573,000 for metropolitan projects and £134,000 for country projects. Included was the contract for a military hospital.

BUILDINGS COMMENCED - METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD AREA.

Period.	Dwelling Houses (excl. Flats) No.	VALUE OF BUILDINGS COMMENCED - £'000.						
		Dwelling Houses	Flats.	Business Premises (a)	Misc.	T O T A L.		
						City	Suburbs	Total
1939	7,341	5,967	1,855	3,130	955	1,800	10,107	11,907
1940	7,161	6,157	2,341	2,795	1,581	1,545	11,329	12,874
1941	7,177	6,556	2,450	1,738	1,074	706	11,112	11,818
1942	639	653	81	2,350	900	354	3,630	3,984
1941-Jan.	497	480	195	210	41	78	848	926
1942-Jan.	334	294	57	66	99	13	503	516
-June	30	19	-	775	48	81	761	842
-Nov.	22	11	2	171	10	39	155	194
-Dec.	20	8	-	53	261	18	304	322
1943-Jan.	91	31	-	71	80	26	156	182

(a) Includes factories.